

In the Claims:**Claim 1 (currently amended):**

- 1 1. A flat heat pipe having a vacuum chamber which is provided with an evaporator in contact
2 with a heating element, and a condenser connected to a cooling device, said vacuum chamber
3 being provided in a hollow interior with a first wick structure, and a predetermined amount
4 of a working fluid by which an evaporation-condensation cycle is effected;
- 5 wherein said vacuum chamber is provided in the hollow interior with a plurality of heat
6 conduction pillars;
- 7 further wherein said heat conduction pillars are in contact with an upper wall and a lower
8 wall of the hollow interior of said vacuum chamber, and said heat conduction pillars are
9 disposed only ~~around~~ within a central section of the flat heat pipe so as to allow condensates
10 to be collected around both sides of the upper wall of the flat heat pipe;
- 11 further wherein said flat heat pipe further comprises a plurality of second wick structures
12 arranged alternately with the heat conduction pillars, said second wick structures being made
13 of a material different from said first wick structure and;
- 14 at least some of said heat conduction pillars have different cross-section area and shape from
15 other heat conduction pillars.

Claim 2 (canceled):

- 1 2. The flat heat pipe as defined in claim 1, wherein at least some of said heat conduction pillars
2 have different cross-sectional area and shape from the others.

Claim 3 (previously presented):

- 1 3. The flat heat pipe as defined in claim 1, wherein said heat conduction pillars are made of a
2 material having a high thermal conductivity.

Claim 4 (canceled):

- 1 4. The flat heat pipe as defined in claim 1, which further comprises a plurality of wick
2 structures arranged alternately with the heat conduction pillars to enhance the evaporation-
3 condensation cycle.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

- 1 5. The flat heat pipe as defined in claim 4 1, wherein said wick structures are of a porous
2 medium made of a sintered metal powder.

Claim 6 (currently amended):

- 1 6. The flat heat pipe as defined in claim 4 1, wherein said wick structures are of a mesh or metal
2 spring.

Claim 7 (previously presented):

- 1 7. The flat heat pipe as defined in claim 1, wherein said heat conduction pillars have a grooved
2 or porous structure to enhance the evaporation-condensation cycle.

Claim 8 (previously presented):

- 1 8. The flat heat pipe as defined in claim 1 which further comprises support pillars disposed to
2 provide structural support.